

made thereto, is attached. Please note that all claims currently pending in this application are being reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

27. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with at least one printer, comprising:

- printer list acquisition means for acquiring a printer list;
- printer selection means for selecting a printer from said printer list in accordance with a user's instruction;
- acquisition means for acquiring paper information on a printing paper set in the printer selected by said printer selection means; and
- limitation means for limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper information acquired by said acquisition means.

28. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising size setting means for setting information relating to a size of a printing paper, wherein said limitation means further limits the staplable position on the basis of the information set by said size setting means based on said paper information acquired by said acquisition means.

30. (Unamended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising display means for displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

32. (Twice Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said limitation means limits a staplable position based on said paper information relating to the printing paper list stacked on the paper feed tray equipped in said printer selected by a user.

33. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said paper information relates to size information of the printing paper, and the paper information includes R/non-R information relating to the printing paper at least.

[Claim 34 is cancelled herein.]

35. (Twice Amended) An information processing method for controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with at least one printer, comprising the steps of:

printer list acquisition means for acquiring a printer list;

printer selection means for selecting a printer from said printer list in accordance with a user's instruction;

acquiring paper information relating to a printing paper set in the printer selected by said printer selection means; and
limiting a staplable position on the basis of said paper information acquired in said acquiring step.

36. (Amended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a step of setting information relating to a size of a printing paper, wherein said limiting step further limits the staplable position on the basis of the information set by the size setting step based on the paper information acquired in said acquiring step.

38. (Unamended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a step of displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

40. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein the limiting step limits the staplable position based on the paper information relating to the printing paper list stacked on the paper feed tray equipped in said printer selected by a user.

41. (Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein said paper information relates to size information of the printing paper, and the paper information includes R/non-R information relating to the printing paper at least .

[Claim 42 is cancelled herein.]

43. (Twice Amended) A computer executable program for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with at least one printer, the program comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring a printer list;

selecting a printer from said printer list in accordance with a user's instruction;

acquiring paper information relating to a printing paper set in the selected

printer ; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said acquired paper information .

44. (Twice Amended) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with at least one printer, said program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring a printer list;

selecting a printer from said printer list in accordance with a user's instruction;

acquiring paper information relating to a printing paper set in the selected

printer ; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said acquired paper information .

Please add Claims 45-56 as follows:

--45. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising location setting means for setting a binding location,

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the paper information acquired by said acquisition means, the information set by said size setting means, and the binding location set by said location setting means.

46. (New) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising location setting means for setting a binding location from among binding locations,

wherein said limitation means limits further the staplable position based on said paper information.

47. (New) An information processing apparatus which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with one or more printers, comprising:

first setting means for setting information relating to a size of a printing paper;

and

second setting means for setting a binding location of the printing paper; and

limitation means for limiting further the binding position based on the information set by said first setting means and the binding location set by said second setting means; and

sending means for sending the binding position information to said printer.

48. (New) An information processing apparatus for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising:

selection means for selecting a paper feed tray among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limitation means for limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected by said selection means, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions;

first setting means for setting a size of a printing paper;

second setting means for setting a binding location;

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the printing paper set by said first setting means, the paper feed tray selected by said selection means and the binding location set by said second setting means.

49. (New) The method according to claim 36, further comprising a step of setting a binding location,

wherein said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the paper information acquired by said acquisition step and the binding location.

50. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a step of setting a binding location from among binding locations,

wherein said limiting step reduces further the staplable position based on said paper information.

51. (New) An information processing method of controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with one or more printers, comprising the steps of:

setting information relating to a size of a printing paper;

setting a binding location of the printing paper; and

limiting to reduce further the staplable position based on the information set limited based on the binding location; and

sending the staplable position information to said printer.

52. (New) An information processing method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions;

setting a size of a printing paper; and

setting a binding location;

wherein the staplable position is limited on the basis of the set size of the printing paper, the selected paper feed tray and the binding location set.

53. (New) A computer executable program for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with one or more printers, the program comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

setting information relating to a size of a printing paper;

setting a binding location of the printing paper; and

limiting the staplable position based on the set information and the binding location; and

sending the staplable position information to the printer.

54. (New) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer which comprises a printer controller capable of controlling communication with one or more printers, the program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

setting information relating to a size of a printing paper;

setting a binding location of the printing paper; and

limiting the staplable position based on the set information and the binding location; and

sending the staplable position information to the printer.

55. (New) A computer executable program for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, the program comprising the instructions for performing the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the selected paper feed tray, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions;

setting a size of a printing paper; and

setting a binding location;

wherein said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the set printing paper, the paper feed tray selected and the binding location set.

56. (New) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing an information processing method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality of staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays the program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the selected paper feed tray, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions;

setting a size of a printing paper; and

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setting a binding location;

wherein said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the set printing paper, the paper feed tray selected and the binding location set.

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41, and 43-56. Claims 34 and 42 have been cancelled while Claims 45-56 are newly added. Claims 27, 35, 43, 44, 47, 48, and 51-56 are independent.

In view of the above amendments and newly presented claims, as well as the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Claims 32 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicant has amended each of these claims and in so doing has eliminated the objected to phraseology. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under § 112 is respectfully sought.

Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 27 is directed to an information processing apparatus which comprises a printer list acquisition means for acquiring a printer list, printer selection means for selecting a printer from the printer list in accordance with a user instruction and acquisition means for acquiring paper information on printing paper set in the printer selected by the printer selection means. The invention is further characterized in its

provision of limitation means for limiting the staplable position on the basis of the paper information acquired by the acquisition means.

Independent Claims 35, 43, and 44 are directed to information processing methods, computer program, and recording mediums each of which incorporate the features of Claim 27 as discussed above.

Each of independent Claims 27, 35, 43, and 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohtani (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,818). In view of the above amendments and for reasons which follow, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ohtani is directed to an image forming apparatus with an ability to designate a stapling pattern by referencing the paper feed direction on the basis of rough command patterns. In Ohtani there is disclosed both printer and host computer. Specifically, the host I/F 11 informs the host computer 2 of the status of an image forming section 12 and receives print data relating to a text from the computer 2. In addition, the image forming section 12 determines, whether or not the desired stapling patterns are acceptable and whether or not the image data must be rotated by 180° on the basis of the printing direction, paper size and stapling pattern. In addition, the stapling command may also be cancelled if it is determined that the paper is in a desired direction where stapling is physically impossible.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention as now set forth in each of Claims 27, 35, 43, and 44 is neither taught nor suggested by Ohtani.

Initially, the invention as now defined in each of these claims makes it possible to limit the staplable positions based on paper information relating to a printing paper stacked on a paper feed tray which is actually equipped in the printer selected from at least one printer

displayed in a printer list. Ohtani describes that the staple position is determined on the basis of the printing direction, paper size, etc., relating to a printer as shown in column 4, and Figures 6-9. However, the printer 1 corresponds to the host computer 2 and is fixed. Thus, Ohtani requires the use of one connected printer and does not select a printer from at least one printer displayed in the printer list as now set forth in each of the above-discussed independent claims.

Applicant further notes that the invention as defined in each of the above four independent claims enables the exclusion of positions at which stapling becomes impossible. As a result of this feature, the user can ascertain the appropriate staplable positions from among many different staplable positions without unnecessary processing.

Ohtani allows the operator to select only one of various preselected combinations relating to the stapling pattern. (See, Figs. 6-9) When the user selects a staple position as being physically impossible, that staple position is cancelled. That is, Ohtani determines whether or not the desired stapling patterns are acceptable on the basis of the printing direction, paper size, stapling pattern and the like. For example, "cancel" in Figures 6-9 refers to a condition wherein the staple command is cancelled because stapling the paper in a desired direction is physically impossible. However, "cancel staple" in Figures 6-9 refers to a condition wherein the staple command is cancelled because the duplex copy mode and the stapling direction in the desired combination are contradictory. Accordingly, useless processing of cancelling the staple which the user set is generated. More particularly, there is no limitation means as required in the claims of Applicant's invention which reduce the staplable positions and eliminates such useless processing as engaged in Ohtani.

Each of the newly presented independent Claims 47, 48, and 51-56 provides that a staplable position can sequentially be limited from among many staplable positions by giving the setting condition sequentially and thus a smart staple position setting procedure is offered. As noted above, Ohtani fails to teach or suggest such an affect and therefore the newly presented are believed patentable over Ohtani for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 27, 35, 43, and 44.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the independent claims of the above application are patentable over the applied art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

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